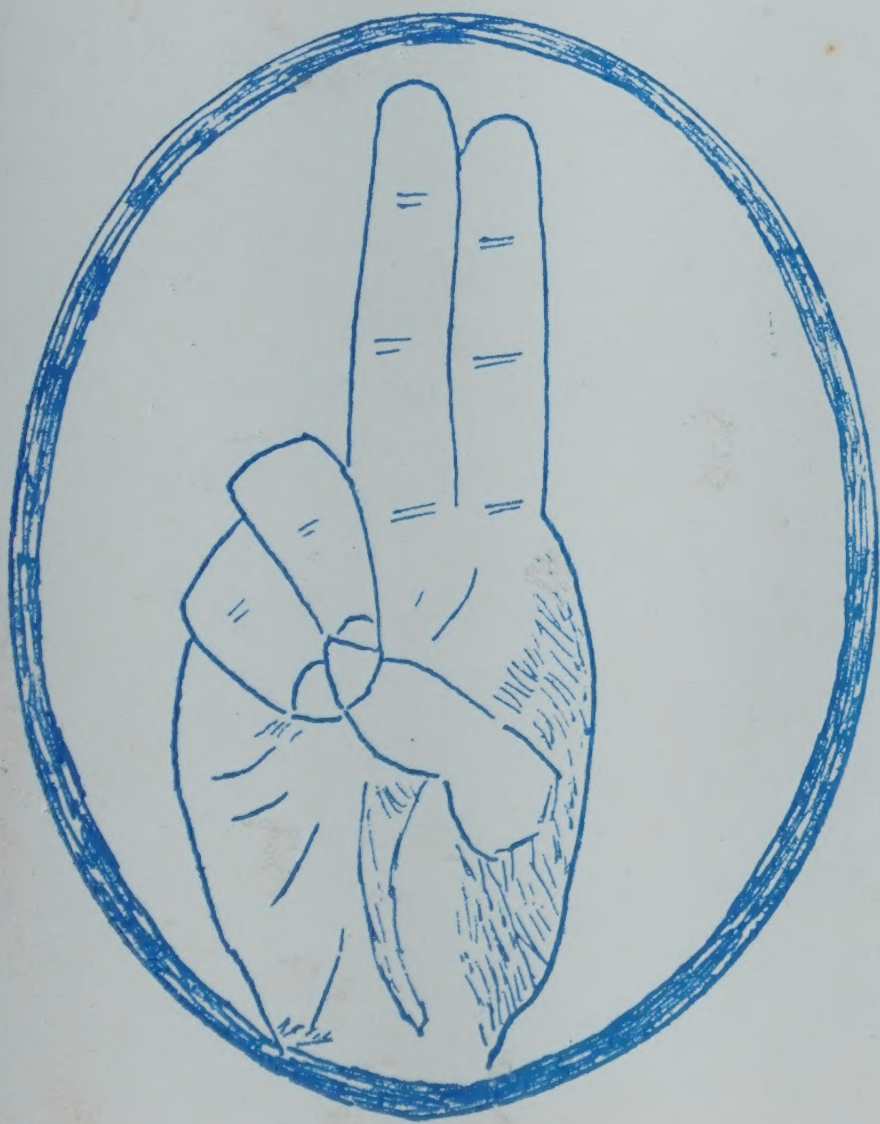


BROWNIE STORIES



FOREWORD

Brownie stories prevalent in several countries have been carefully compiled by Smt. Mythily Sampath, Headquarters Commissioner for Publication, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka.

They help to create a world of fantasy of beautiful Sights, Flowers, Trees, moonlight and Sunshine inhabited with fairies, wise Owls and the like.

The Children while enjoying the depiction of nature can overcome their defects by introspection, by discovering the finer side of Oneself.

The moral is finely and Subtly drawn and linked to Brownie Law and Promise. The children will learn to perform acts of Good Turn in consonance with their motto 'Lend a Hand.'

The Book is an asset to youngsters who will enjoy reading stories. I hope the Flock Leaders will make good use of this publication. I congratulate Smt. Mythily Sampath for her facile penmanship. May she bring forth many more publications !

M. R. Lakshamma

Incharge, State Chief Commissioner

25-11-1982

BROWNIE STORIES



AUSTRALIA

BELGIUM

ICELAND

ITALY

IRAN

AUSTRALIA



UNIFORM

Beret	—	BROWN
Dress	—	BROWN
Tie	—	YELLOW
Belt	—	DARK BROWN LEATHER
Socks	—	FAWN
Shoes	—	BROWN OR BLACK
Badge	—	GILT

THE STORY OF THE BROWNIES

Once upon a time, many years ago, a poor man and his wife lived with their two children, Tommy and Betty, in a small cottage on the edge of a wood. The mother loved both the children but she was always having to find fault with them because they were lazy and forgetful and untidy.

They used to rush about the place yelling and playing games, upsetting the furniture, breaking the crockery, spoiling their clothes and generally making themselves a nuisance.

As long as they had a good time they never thought what a bother they were to other people.

One evening, at the end of a particularly busy day, the mother sighed and said, "Oh dear, how different things were when we had a Brownie!"

"What is a Brownie?" asked the children.

"The Brownie," answered their mother, "was a creature who came to the house before anyone was up, and swept the hearth and lit the fire, drew the water and laid the breakfast table. He tidied the rooms, he weeded the garden, he cleaned the shoes and put the children's clothes away. He did every kind of useful work, but nobody ever saw him. He always slipped away before the people of the house got up, but he was the greatest blessing to everyone. Everyone was happy and the home was bright and clean."

"My word, I wish we had a Brownie!" exclaimed Tommy. "He could do all our odd jobs for us."

"Yes," agreed Betty, "and we should never have to tidy up after ourselves. Mother, do tell us how we can find a Brownie."

"There's only one person who can tell you that," replied their mother, "and that's the wise brown owl in the woods; she knows all about tthe Brownies."

So after dark the children went out into the wood to seek the brown owl. Tommy led the way very bravely at first, but as the the path got darker and darker in the silent woods he began to hang back and to feel sorry that he had started on the adventure.

But Betty was eager to find out about the Brownie, and though she felt nervous, she would not allow herself to turn back, and she pushed on, leading her brother after her.

Presently they heard the uncanny hoo-hooting of the owl among the trees. It sounded so weird that for a moment they stood still and felt inclined to turn and run back home.

But again Betty thought of their chance of learning about the Brownie so she stood her ground, and hearing again the voice of the owl, which sounded more friendly as they grew accustomed to it, she went forward and presently came to the tree in whose branches the owl was sitting.

"Mrs. Owl, Mrs. Owl, we have come to see you," she whispered.

"Oo-hoo-hoo, I am glad to hear it. Climb up the tree, my dears, and come and sit by me on this branch."

They did so, and, snuggled up closely against the soft, warm feathers of the bird, they told her their trouble; how they were always being bothered to work when they wanted to play, and how they had heard of the Brownies and wanted to get one to come and live in the house and do the odd jobs for them.

"Oo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo!" chuckled the owl. "You see that pool down there. Go to the north side of it when the moon is bright and then turn round three times and say :

'Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.

I looked in the water and there saw . . ."

"To get the finishing word of the rhyme look down into the water and there you will see the Brownie, and her name will fill in the rhyme that you want."

So when the moon was up, Betty went to the pool and turned herself round three times and cried :

"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.

I looked in the water and there saw . . ."

But when she looked in the pool she saw nothing at all except her own reflection. So she went back to the owl and told her how she had seen no one there, except her own reflection in the water, when she had been hoping to find a Brownie who would come to the house and do all the work.

Then the owl said : "Did you see no one whose name would make up the rhyme that I gave you?"

Betty said : "No one."

Mrs. Owl asked : "Who did you see in the water?"

Betty replied : "No one but myself."

Then Mrs. Owl said : "Wouldn't the word 'myself' make the rhyme?" and Betty thought of the rhyme :

"Twist me and turn me and show me the elf.
I looked in the water and there saw myself."

"But I'm not a Brownie."

Mrs. Owl replied : "No, but you can be one if you try. You are strong and active. You could sweep the floor, you are clever enough to lay a fire and light it; you could fill the kettle and put it on to boil; you could tidy up the room and lay the breakfast things; you could make your bed and clean your shoes and fold up your clothes. You could do all these things before anyone else was up, so that when your mother and father came down they would think that the Brownies had been at work in the house."

Betty and Tommy said goodnight to the wise owl and then went thoughtfully home.

Next morning they slipped out of their beds early before anyone was up. They cleaned up the place and lit the fire, put the breakfast all ready, and crept quietly back to their rooms, so that when their father and mother came down, expecting to have to do all the work themselves, they were astonished to find everything already done for them and they thought the Brownies must have been there.

Day after day this went on, and the children had more fun and happiness out of being helpful than they ever had out of playing rowdy games or being lazy.

It was only a long time afterwards that the parents discovered that their own children were the Brownies who had helped them and then they were even more pleased !'

PROMISE

I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to God,
To serve the Queen and help other people.
And to Keep the Brownie Guide Law.

LAW

A Brownie Guide thinks of others before herself
and does a good turn every day.

MOTTO

Lend a Hand.

BELGIUM



UNIFORM

Cap	—	NAVY BLUE
Blouse	—	NAVY BLUE
Skirt	—	NAVY BLUE
Scarf	—	PACK COLOUR
Belt	—	BROWN LEATHER
Socks	—	GREY
Shoes	—	BROWN
Badge	—	CLOTH BADGE WITH YELLOW EMBLEM AND GREEN TREFAIL ON BLUE BACKGROUND

LOUVETEAU AND WELP

It was evening. The doors of the mill had long since been closed and Grandmother had drawn, one by one, the red and white check curtains.

Jean and Marie were seated beside the fire.

“Your story, please, Grandmother.”

“Ah, yes,” said the old lady nodding her white head. “I was a very little girl when Houts the Owl told it the animals of the forest and her mother had told it for years and years before that. This is the story that I will tell you.”

There was once a little girl with golden hair. She was gentle and kind and was always smiling, even when she had hard work to do. That was why Bonpic, the old shepherd who brought her up, call her Sunbeam. He had taught her to play on a pipe of reeds, and the tunes she played were like the song of birds in spring and the murmur of a stream at dawn.

Bonpic and Sunbeam lived up on a mountain with the bees, the swallows and the flowers for friends and always they tried to help others.

Often Sunbeam would leave her little cottage, the garden and the pond where the stars danced at night and, tying up a loaf of bread in a handkerchief would jump on her horse, Gallopade, and ride down the mountainside. She rode from village to village, as far as the edge of the forest, looking for people who needed help. One day she found a little old woman sitting on a bundle of sticks and sobbing.

"Why do you cry?" asked Sunbeam in her gentle voice.

"The Goblins have tripped me up." wailed the little old woman.

"Who are the Goblins?"

"They are little men who are so ugly that you would lose your sweet voice at the sight of them."

Sunbeam helped the old woman to her feet and carried the sticks to her cottage.

"Thank you, my dear; may you always be happy, and may your sweet smile help the wicked to become good and the ugly to be beautiful."

Sunbeam rode on into the forest where the birds whistled merrily. The path wandered between clumps of fern and in the sky floated four little clouds, whiter than the snow on the mountain top. She took out her pipes and so sweetly did she play that every bird closed its beak to listen, the rabbits popped out of

their holes, the bumble-bee landed softly on the nearest flower and even the clouds were still in the sky.

As Sunbeam finished her tune a brightly coloured bird flew down beside her and said :

“ What is your name, little girl, and where do you come from ? ”

“ I am called Sunbeam and I live high up on the mountain. ”

“ Be happy, little Sunbeam, ” said the bird. “ With your pipes you have made music to cheer every scowling face. Even the Goblins wept as they heard you and promised never again to be unkind. If ever you need my help just tie a blade of grass on a swallow’s leg and I will come to you. ”

Now in those days there lived in a forest glade hundreds of tiny people called Brownies, who crept out at night to help human beings and then silently disappeared. That morning as they came home from the different villages, tired with their night’s work, they heard all of a sudden the sound of Sunbeam’s pipes. At once their weariness fell from them and soon they were dancing and singing to her music and they asked her to stay with them in the forest.

But then a sad thing happened. The people they were helping at night time got lazier and lazier, and some even kept the Brownies shut in their houses to make them work harder. The Brownies were very upset at this cruel treatment, so they decided to run away and live deep in the forest. They divided into little tribes which always tried to help each other and they asked Sunbeam to be their leader.

The tribes scattered through the forest to their homes and Sunbeam chose a beautiful glade, with a fairy-ring of toads tools where a messenger from each tribe would come for an important council called "Pow-Wows." In the middle was a tall totem pole and the Brownies made a long necklace of fire cones for Sunbeam. The glade was carpeted with bright flowers and each tribe took the name of different flowers.

Sunbeam suggested that the Brownies should have a law, and this was it.

The Brownies will obey Sunbeam;

The Brownies are always good friends;

The Brownies work and play whole heartedly.

"Now," she said to the messengers, "We must see if your tribes would like this Law."

So she tied a blade of grass to the leg of a swallow and let him fly away. In less time than it takes to tell there was swish of wings and down flew the brightly coloured bird. Sunbeam asked him to send his bird people North and South and East and West to ask all her tribes if they would accept the Law.

"If they wish to have this Law" she said, "They will give you an oak leaf to bring back as a sign."

So quickly did the birds fly all over the forest that it seemed only a moment before they were back, and the oak leaves were falling into the glade like raindrops.

When all the tribes had sent their oak leaves, Sunbeam mounted on Gallapard, rode all through the forest and to every corner of the land to visit her faithful tribes. She formed them into little groups, elves and

fairies, gnomes and pixies and many more. At night she slept in their leafy huts and at dawn she called them together to plan whom they should help that day, for no Brownie liked to let a day pass without helping somebody. To their kind deeds they gave the same Good Turns. They still use the name, and if you listen you may perhaps hear Sunbeam and Gallopard...

There, said Grandmother, that is the story which Houta the Owl told many years ago.

Jean and Marie were very very sleepy but they wanted to know the end of the story, so when the moon rose and Grandmother was asleep they crept out hand in hand. The wild creatures of the woods showed them the way and they come to the old oak, where Houta the Owl listened kindly to their questions.

"Please can a little girl of eight become Brownie?"

"Can we learn to do good turns?"

Then Houta replied in her deep voice :

"You can easily find the answer. Look into the still waters of that pool and you will learn the secret of the Brownies."

So they learnt the secret, and they went home and taught their friends how to obey the Brownie Law and to do Good Turns. For this is the way to be happy and to make good friends.

ICELAND



UNIFORM

Blouse	—	IVORY
Skirt or		
Trousers	—	OLIVE GREEN
Tie	—	DARK RED
Socks	—	OLIVE GREEN
Shoes	—	BROWN
Badge	—	DARK RED

LEARN TO SMILE BANDALAG ISJENZKRA SKATA

“Nina, now try to be quick. We shall be very busy today.” The Housekeeper shouted after little Nina as she walked slowly after the cows :

“Be quick. Be quick was repeated continuously whatever she was told to do. These past two weeks in which she had stayed in the country had not been exactly pleasant and quite different from what she had expected.

It was no fun to take the cows far from the farm every morning after they had been milked. She would not admit that she was afraid of the cows but they were so big and heavy and sometimes it was difficult to manage them, and old Hyrna was worst of the lot, she stopped time and again and looked at Nina with a sulky expression and then Nina could not help shivering although the housekeeper, had said that Hyrna never harmed anybody. It was not that she looked forward to returning to the farm. There she would have to do the dishes and afterwards make the beds; Sweep the floors and do many other things. The house keeper

was always pushing her and saying that this was not much compared to what she had to do when she was Nina's age. Then the housekeeper had to carry the water into the farm in heavy wooden buckets, wash the mud splashed socks and if she had not done it well enough she had been struck. "There was no pity she said,

Nina concluded from various things that she was considered slow and dull. She felt sorry about it, but did not know how to improve herself. Yet she did not want to mention going back home after such a short time. She thought that disgraceful. She was now ten years old and had for a long time envied her girl friends when they were telling her stories of the country and how wonderful it was there.

Nina tried also to hide that she was not very keen on the dogs. They were always jumping about and barking loudly so she did not care for their pasture. Company when taking the cows into the pasture.

The Horses were the most pleasant of all the animals and she was not in the least afraid of them. Still she had not succeeded in learning how to control a horse. This troubled her quite a lot and the others on the farm teased her about her clumsiness.

Nina sighed heavily and swung the rope which she held in her hand. The cows were usually lazy to-day.

But this was all so different from what she had expected. Now the cows had arrived at the pasture and Hyrna looked at Nina as if she were saying good-bye and began eating the grass.

Nina turned back towards the farm but when she was out of sight of the cows she sat down amongst

the flowers of course. She ought to hurry but there the boring house-work awaited her. What could she do to make her stay in the country more pleasant ?

“ You should smile ’ she heard some one saying in a very soft voice.

Nina opened her eyes and looked around, who could be speaking to her ?

“ You should smile,” was repeated and now she saw a little girl in a sky-blue dress who stood near her and at the same time she felt a strong scent of flowers which she had not noticed before and a gentle breeze touched her cheeks.

“ What is your name and where do you live ?” Nina asked, surprised. “ My name is Disa and I live in the neighbourhood,” the little girl said :

“ Why has everything suddenly changed ?” Nina said “ I have not noticed these beautiful flowers before and the breeze has never been so warm.”

“ It is because you see now everything with my eyes and we fairies try first and foremost to see beauty in all things.” Disa said smiling and her face was radiant.

“ A fairy ? I thought that fairies did not exist except in stories and fairy tales”. Nina said “ Yes,” sure there are fairies and all little girls who love beauty and know how to smile can become fairies.” Disa said.

“ But there are so many things that are dull and then it is not possible to smile” Nina said.

“ No work is dull if you try to be helpful and do your best, and beyond everything do not forget the smile.

Look around you and learn to enjoy the beauty. It is the remedy for most things."

Nina looked at the flowers of all colours; it seemed to her that she had never seen them before, and then she listened to the singing of the birds."

"Now I'll call my sister and we will dance for you" Disa said.

She clapped her hands and a crowd of little fairies came running lightly and began dancing to the singing of the birds.

Nina looked enraptured at the dance and as unknown happiness came over her. But suddenly the fairies disappeared and the birds stopped singing. Nina started up as if from sleep and rubbed her eyes. Had she been dreaming ? if so, it was a beautiful dream which she was going to remember and from which she would try to learn something.

Now she had dawdled for too long. She jumped to her feet and waved her hands to the flowers as she ran off and she thought that they nodded to her. Nina hurried as best she could and sang to herself a song about the country and its beauty which her grandmother had taught her.

ITALY



UNIFORM

Blouse	—	PALE BLUE
Skirt	—	NAVY BLUE
Beret	—	RED WITH SEVEN DOTS
Tie	—	PACK COLOUR
Badge	—	METAL RED & BLACK

COCCINELLE ASSOCIAZIONE GUIDE ITALIANE

The happy family in which the Italian **coccinelle** (Brownies) live is composed of many sisters, who all together go in search of joy. Their circle is the wonderful circle of nature and they are called after one of the smallest and prettiest animals, the ladybird, bearer of joy, which is also very useful as it eats the parasites of plants.

When a little girl wants to become a member of the happy family, the elder sisters receive her with joy and for a certain time, about three months, she tries to become a real **coccinelle** who wants to bring joy. But she must first of all discover how to, with her Leader's help. Her wings are fragile and not yet well shared, because a **coccinella** cannot be considered as such until she has learned to put her law into practice. The "Path through the Meadow" is the preparation for the "Great Flight in the Wood." Joy is found in the world of nature, and the child discovers a thousand secrets; she sees that everything is in the right place, the place given by God. Then she understands that at the basis of joy is order and obedience. When a

coccinella has discovered all this she promises to do her best to be faithful to God, to Italy, to her relatives and to the **coccinelle** law, and to do a good turn every day.

There are seven laws like the seven black spots on the ladybird's wings.

Her motto is very simple : " Here am I." It means that she is always alert, quick and ready to make herself useful, to do, in short, the will of God.

After making her Promise solemnly before the Altar she becomes a true **coccinella** and she begins her Flight in the Wood, through greater difficulties than before. Now she must pick the Flower of Joy, the lily of the valley. To gain it, she must deepen the study of the wood, where everyone is so happy. She must seek joy in simplicity, therefore in truthfulness; in fact, she must endeavour to follow two of the laws above all : a **coccinella** is always truthful, a **coccinella** is always happy.

Now the joy is her own and strong in the possession of this treasure, she ventures more into the thick under-wood of the mountains. Her life is full of dangers and difficulties, but she is no longer afraid of anything. She keeps her Promise close to her heart, and goes fearlessly on her way; all the animals she meets tell her that everyone must help one another; she understands that there is no joy if she keeps it for herself only, so she learns to give herself to others, to become more and more useful in her family, in the Pack and at school. Then she is considered a real **coccinella** who has reached the " Top of the Mountain," where she picks the Gentian flower and waits for the moment to join the Company.

This would not be possible, of course, if she did not ask God constantly for help. This is her prayer :

“ Here am I, Child Jesus, with my heart near Yours. Help me to love You, to be fond of everyone, to do my duty well every day, to love the nature You created as St. Francis loved it. Bless all the people who are dear to me, all children all over the world, and make me to find joy in You.” Amen.

COCCINELLE PROMISE

I promise to do my best :

To be faithful to God, to Italy and to her relatives.
To the coccinelle law and
To do a good turn everyday.

The dogs came running towards her and she stroked them unafraid. “ It is nice to see you looking so happy ” The housekeeper said when Nina came in “ I was beginning to wonder about you, It took you an unusually long time to drive the cows.”

“ I was delayed on the way but now I'll make up for it by hurrying with the house work ” Nina said. The Housekeeper smiled at Nina and patted her head and Nina smiled back.

The sun shone through the kitchen window and Nina sang as she washed the dishes. She no longer thought it boring.

She had learned to smile.

IRAN



UNIFORM

Cap	—	DARK BLUE
Dress	—	BLUE
Tie	—	YELLOW
Belt	—	BLUE
Socks	—	DARK BLUE
Shoes	—	BLACK
Badge	—	RED LINGS OUTLINED IN YELLOW, ON DARK BLUE DIAMOND BORDERED WITH YELLOW

THE STORY OF ANGELS

Pishahangi Dokhtaran

Once upon a time; there was a wood-cutter living with his wife and two little daughters, Fairy and Farah, in a little cottage. The cottage was built in a very green forest near a blue lake.

The parents loved their children very much, but the two little girls were unhappy because they did not know how to help Mummy with her housekeeping.

One day, the mother took Fairy and Farah to the neighbour's house. They were astonished to see the house so clean, and everything arranged in order. They wished their house was as clean as their neighbour's.

"What a clean house you have got," said one of the girls to the hostess. "Will you tell us who helps you in keeping the house so clean?"

The Angels come to our house, answered the hostess with a smile. "They can do housekeeping very well. They are the ones who help me with making this house so neat and lovely."

“ Angels ?”

“ Yes’ Angels.”

“ Who are Angels ?”

“ Angels are very beautiful beings. They wake up very early in the morning and come to our house when everybody is asleep. They clean the house very carefully, sweep, water the flowers, arrange the furniture, gather up the dirty clothes and set them aside to be washed, take off the dead leaves and cut the weeds in the garden.”

Hearing about Angels, Fairy and Farah were very anxious to meet Angels and ask them to clean their house as they did for the neighbour.

“ How can I meet the Angels ?”. Fairy asked the lady neighbour.

“ The best way is to meet with Hoopoe the Leader. She is living on a pine at the lake side,” answered the lady. Then, she continued describing Hoopoe; * “ Hoopoe is a brown bird, elegant and beautiful with toothed crown like a comb and colourful wings. At night, in the moonlight, it hums “ Hoo-Hoo, Hoo ”; it is a well mannered bird, hard harmless, kind nice and very wise. It knows a lot about Angels and can help you.”

The two little children were so interested to see Hoopoe that they went as soon as it was dark to the lake. Fairy walked ahead bravely, pulling Farah's hand. After walking a long while they got tired. By and by it got darker and darker. Suddenly the two short sounds “ Hoom,” drew their attention. Then, no more; no more sound but a deep silence. They were

astonished, tried of searching, but they did not want to lose the chance. They walked slowly towards the sound. Again, they heard the same sound. They heard it for the third time and it was quite familiar to them. Finally, they found themselves at the foot of a rock where the Hoopoe was sitting.

Fairy said : "Oh Hoopoe, the Leader, we greet you."

"We are coming here to meet you." Farah, too, said this after Fairy to Hoopoe the Leader and then asked her if they might have a chat with her.

"Glad to see you, lovely girls." answered Hoopoe. "Come along and sit down on the rock beside me,"

Fairy and Farah sat down there and began to tell their story about their neighbour's house and their wish to have Angels to clean and arrange their house. Hoopoe the Leader smiled and said, "There is another rock at the Lake shore one hundred metres from here. Go and stop on that rock, turn round three times saying; To see the Angels at the water surface to watch the Angels".

The moon was high in the middle of the sky. The moonlight was shining on the lake. Fairy and Farah walked to their rock and stood on it, they turned three times and said loudly : "To see the Angels we shall be pleased — As our knowledge will get increased." Then they looked at the water and could see nothing but their picture.

They hurried to Hoopoe the Leader and said; "We did what you commanded, but we could not see the angels in the water. We hoped to see Angels and take them home."

"I am sure you saw the Angels, but could not recognize them," answered the Hoopoe. "You have to repeat what you did many times until you find the key to the riddle..."

Fairy and Farah went back to the rock. Then, on the rock Fairy turned three times and said; "To see the Angels we shall be pleased — As our knowledge will get increased. "She looked at the water, she did the same twice and three times. Suddenly she cried : I have guessed the riddle, I am the Angel."

The two little girls went to Hoopoe the Leader. Fairy said; "I think I have found the Angel." Hoopoe sang the Song "Oh yes, I can make oath, that Angels are you both. Hurry back home. Wake up every day early in the morning when all the other people are asleep. Do housekeeping for Mummy. Clean and put everything in good order. And so your house will be Cleaner and prettier than your neighbour's."

Fairy and Farah did what Hoopoe the Leader told them. Woke up every day before everybody Cleaned up everywhere, and got the breakfast ready. When the parents woke up everywhere was clean and everything was in order.

The days passed. Fairy and Farah got into the habit of doing all they had been told. The helped Mummy, obeyed Daddy, kept the house clean, because they were the Angels of the paradise. Their beautiful house was the paradise.

ANGEL'S PROMISE

I promise to believe in one supreme God,
to love my King and my country
and to follow the Angel's Laws.



